



Paul E. Helliker
Director

Department of Pesticide Regulation



Gray Davis
Governor

Winston H. Hickox
Secretary, California
Environmental
Protection Agency

MEMORANDUM

TO: Rudy Schnagl, Senior Landfill and Water Use Analyst
Central Valley Region V
3443 Routier Road
Sacramento, California 95827-3098

FROM: John S. Sanders, Chief
Environmental Monitoring Branch
(916) 324-4155

DATE: March 13, 2001

SUBJECT: RICE PESTICIDE PROGRAM

Board staff expressed concern about the increase of detections of thiobencarb at the City of Sacramento drinking water-intake during the last three years. Although the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 1.0 parts per billion for thiobencarb has not been exceeded, Board staff wants the Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) to take actions to insure that thiobencarb detections at the water intake do not exceed the established MCL.

After discussions with rice industry representatives, Board staff, and the County Agricultural Commissioners (CAC), DPR agrees to take the following actions to address Board staff concerns:

1. DPR will issue suggested permit conditions to the CAC that state, "Growers shall not allow water to seep through borders surrounding rice fields." CAC staff will check for seepage at the same time they do water holding inspections. CAC staff will notify growers of seepage situations and report the information to DPR. Permit conditions will also require compaction of borders surrounding rice fields. A copy of the additional permit condition language is attached.
2. As part of the annual update for the Rice Pesticides Program DPR provides to Board staff, DPR will include an update on our efforts to control drift.
3. DPR commits to work with the rice industry to evaluate and report on the feasibility of holding all water on molinate- and thiobencarb-treated rice fields in the Colusa Basin watershed until June 15 to minimize discharges and peak concentrations at times when seepage and aerial drift enter surface water.

FLEX YOUR POWER! The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our Web site at <www.cdpr.ca.gov>.

Rudy Schnagl
April 19, 2001
Page 2

We believe that thiobencarb concentrations will also be lower this year than in the past three years because the acreage of rice planted this year will be significantly less than in recent years. Also, new herbicides are being introduced that will replace some of the thiobencarb use. For example, up to 50,000 acres of rice can be treated this year with the herbicide, Clincher, instead of thiobencarb.

If you have any questions, please call me at (916) 324-4155.

Attachment

cc: Paul Helliker
Paul Gosselin
Doug Okumura